

Clean version of Amended Claims

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1 19. (New) A file sharing network for sharing files among a plurality of servers comprising:
2 a. a search engine comprising a data object description table;
3 b. a plurality of servers including a first server defined according to a first server
4 identifier, the first server comprising a first data object defined according to a first data object
5 description; and
6 c. a communication link coupling the search engine to the first server, wherein the
7 first server is configured to transmit the first data object description to the search engine, and
8 wherein the search engine is configured to correlate the first data object description to the first
9 server identifier within the data object description table.

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1 20. (New) The file sharing network according to Claim 19 wherein the first server is
2 configured to upload the first data object description to the search engine during a log-in process
3 of the first server with the search engine, and wherein the search engine is further configured to
4 store the first data object description in the data object description table in a relationship with the
5 first server identifier during the log-in process.

1 21. (New) The file sharing network according to Claim 20 further comprising:
2 a. a second data object description stored within the data object description table in
3 correlation with a second server identifier, wherein the second server identifier describes a
4 second server and the second data object description describes a second data object; and
5 b. a first data object request stored within the search engine, wherein the first data
6 object request was received from the first server, wherein the first data object request is for the
7 second data object.

1 22. (New) The file sharing network according to Claim 21 wherein the search engine is
2 configured to transmit the second server identifier to the first server in response to the first data
3 object request.

1 23. (New) The file sharing network according to Claim 22 wherein the second server is
2 configured to transmit the second data object to the first server upon a valid request by the first
3 server.

1 24. (New) The file sharing network according to Claim 23 wherein the first server is
2 configured to notify the search engine that a download of the second data object is complete.

1 25. (New) The file sharing network according to Claim 23 wherein the second server is
2 configured to notify the search engine that the download of the second data object is complete.

1 26. (New) The file sharing network according to Claim 24 wherein the search engine is
2 configured to correlate the second data object description to the first server identifier within the
3 data object description table when the download of the second data object is complete.

1 27. (New) The file sharing network according to Claim 25 wherein the search engine is
2 configured to correlate, within the data object description table, the second data object
3 description to the first server identifier when the download of the second data object is complete.

1 28. (New) The file sharing network according to Claim 20 wherein the first server identifier
2 is selected from a group consisting of a first internet protocol address, a first quantity of
3 simultaneous connections that can be sustained by the first server, a reliability rating of the first
4 server and a server name.

1 29. (New) The file sharing network according to Claim 20 wherein the first data object
2 description is selected from a group consisting of a title of the first data object, a size of the first
3 data object, a type of the first data object, a text associated with the first data object, and a creator
4 of the first data object.

1 30. (New) The file sharing network according to Claim 20 wherein the first server is further
2 configured to detect when the first data object is removed from a predetermined file location and
3 to notify the search engine of the removal.

1 31. (New) The file sharing network of Claim 20 wherein the search engine is configured to
2 periodically poll the first server to determine if any data objects have been removed from a
3 predetermined file location within the first server.

1 32. (New) The file sharing network according to Claim 30 wherein the search engine is
2 configured to purge the relationship between the first data object description and the first server
3 within the data object description table when the first server notifies the search engine of a
4 removal of the first data object.

1 33. (New) The file sharing network according to Claim 31 wherein the search engine is
2 configured to purge the relationship between the first data object description and the first server
3 within the data object description table when the search engine determines that the first data
4 object has been removed from the predetermined file location within the first server.

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cm' 1 34. (New) The file sharing network according to Claim 20 wherein the search engine is
2 configured to send a periodic ping message between the search engine and the first server, and
3 wherein the first server is configured to respond to the ping message.

1 35. (New) The file sharing network according to Claim 34 wherein the search engine is
2 configured to purge the relationship between the first server identifier and the first data object
3 description within the data object description table when the first server fails to respond to the
4 ping message within a predetermined time.

1 36. (New) The file sharing network according to Claim 20 wherein the first server is
2 configured to send a periodic ping message to the search engine following the log-in process.

1 37. (New) The file sharing network according to Claim 36 wherein the search engine is
2 configured to purge the relationship between the first server identifier and the first data object
3 description within the data object description table when the first server fails to send a ping
4 message within a predetermined time.

1 38. (New) The file sharing network according to Claim 20 wherein the first server identifier
2 comprises an IP address for accessing the first server over the internet.

1 39. (New) The file sharing network according to Claim 22 wherein the second server
2 identifier defines a server from among a first set of potential server identifiers related to the
3 second data object in the data object description table, wherein the search engine is configured to
4 transmit, in response to the first data object request, the first set of potential server identifiers
5 representing a first set of potential servers capable of transmitting the second data object to the
6 first server, and wherein the first server is configured to select an optimal data source from which
7 to receive the first data object from among a first set of potential servers, wherein a selection of
8 the optimal data source is based upon a comparison of operational parameters respectively
9 associated with each server among the first set of potential servers.

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1 40. (New) The file sharing network according to Claim 39 wherein the operational
2 parameters are selected from a group consisting of roundtrip response time between the first
3 server and a potential server, internet connection line speed (bandwidth) of a potential server, a
4 reliability of a potential provider server, a number of requests already queued to a potential
5 server, and a size of a file requested for downloading.

1 41. (New) The file sharing network according to Claim 23 wherein the second server is
2 configured to transmit data files to multiple servers in a time-multiplexed format.

1 42. (New) The file sharing network according to Claim 20 wherein the first data object is
2 selected from a group comprising audio data, text data, video data, image data and software
3 executable data.